

REMARKS**Claim Objection**

The Examiner objects to claims 26-29, because “said first circuit board” in claim 26 lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claim 26 to replace “said first circuit board” with --said means for supporting-- which possesses antecedent basis. Applicant requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,461 to Bellinghausen et al. (hereinafter Bellinghausen).

It is well settled that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. *See* MPEP § 2131. Moreover, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim.” *See* MPEP § 2131, citing *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” *See* MPEP § 2131, citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants respectfully assert that the applied reference does not satisfy these requirements.

Claim 21 recites, in part:

- a first circuit board supporting a plurality of blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry;
- a second circuit board for distributing power and control signals to said plurality of blade elements coupled to said first circuit board;
- said first circuit board being disposed on a first side of said second circuit board;
- said second circuit board comprising a plurality of slots and said plurality of blade elements are coupled through said slots and engage connectors disposed on a second side of said second circuit board.

Claim 26 recites, in part:

means for supporting a plurality of blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry;

means for distributing power and control signals to said plurality of blade elements coupled to said means for supporting;

wherein said means for supporting is disposed on a first side of said means for distributing, said means for distributing comprises a plurality of slots, and said plurality of blade elements are coupled through said slots and engage connectors disposed on a second side of said means for distributing;

Claims 21 and 26 are directed to very different subject matter than the subject matter of Bellinghausen. Claims 21 and 26 recite a system including electronic circuitry on blade elements, structure for supporting the blade elements, and structure for distributing power and control signals to the blade elements. Bellinghausen is merely directed to a “plug” structure that holds a rectifier circuit. Accordingly, there are numerous differences between claims 21 and 26 and Bellinghausen.

For example, there are no control signals in Bellinghausen. There is only a single circuit in the plug structure of Bellinghausen (the bridge rectifier). The bridge rectifier performs only one operation, i.e., converts a bipolar signal into a unipolar signal. Accordingly, no control signals are provided to the bridge rectifier. Additionally, the claims recite “blade elements that each include respective electronic circuitry.” The Examiner relies on elements 10 and 14 of Bellinghausen to satisfy the blade elements. However, elements 10 and 14 of Bellinghausen are “male contacts” (col. 3, line 5) which simply consist of a bare strip of metal. Also, the bridge rectifier circuitry of Bellinghausen is contained within plastic body 8. Col. 3, lines 2-5. Elements 10 and 14 do not comprise the bridge rectifier circuitry and are, instead, merely coupled to the bridge rectifier circuitry.

Accordingly, Bellinghausen does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 21 and 26. Claims 22-25 and 27-29 respectively depend from base claims 21 and 26 and, hence, inherit all limitations of their base claim. Claims 21-29 are not anticipated by Bellinghausen.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200315828-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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